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Elizabeth's crime rates plunges
25 percent
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McDonald's Gospelfest celebrates its
15th year anniversary

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Vol. 16, No. 31

Paris teens team up with Newark students

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD — French fries and teens go together like the components of a McDonald's Happy Meal. That same togetherness and universal appeal was apparent amongst the 21 teens from Paris, France, who were on a Newark-area high school students in a two-week exchange program from April 16 to May 2.

Before returning to France, all the students gathered for a culminating luncheon and rap session held at the Meadowlands Sheraton Hotel to discuss major issues concerning youth — violence, racism, global unification and pop culture. The exchange initiative was spearheaded by the International Resource Consortium, Inc., along with Worldwide Exchange United, the African-American Caribbean Studies Department, 100 Black Men and International Scientific Co. for Israel Development. The groups joined forces to cultivate dialogue and promote cultural enrichment amongst the teens.

Representatives from these alliances along with Parisian director of Jeunesse (Youth) Culture Leisure Technology Train-



Parisian exchange students flanked by Willis Edwards III of 100 Black Men and Abdallah Bouhamid, director of Jeunesse (Youth) Culture Leisure Technology Training.

Abdallah Bouhamid conducted what became a very spirited and memorable session. In responding to the Columbine High School tragedy, where 15 people were killed, the students shared the same feelings about the massacre.

"I was not surprised with the incident in Columbine when you see movies like "Men to Society," said Parisian student David Pechere. With one of his classmates interrogating that guns are as accessible for teens in France as they are in the United States.

Meanwhile, French pop culture — music, media and movies invariably has

Senator Lipman battles cancer to the very end

By Carl Chase
and Jean Pierre

After nearly eight full terms of service and countless lives uplifted, State Sen. Wynona Lipman, champion of justice and help for women, children and minorities, lost a battle to cancer on Monday at her home in Newark. Lipman, the first black woman senator in New Jersey, was 67.

From her 29th Legislative district covering Hillside and a broad slice of Newark, she championed the relatively voiceless and powerless in society, from children to women to minorities.

"I admired Sen. Lipman for her ability to get so much accomplished despite obstacles in the rough-and-tumble world of local politics," said her frequent ally, Rep. Donald Payne. "Her sense of decorum impressed her colleagues and often brought them around to her point of view."

U.S. Sen. Robert Torricelli called her one of New Jersey's "finest," who has "fought and won crucial battles to combat domestic violence and support children's health."

Lipman, a Georgian by birth, earned her Ph.D. at Columbia and a Fulbright Scholarship to study at the Sorbonne in Paris. She soon became Essex County Freeholder and, as Assemblywoman Leroy Jones said, "She was the steel magnolia of the Senate."

A life member of the NAACP, Lipman was among New Jersey's most powerful women.

"She was not only one of the most effective lawmakers in Trenton, but prior to that as a freeholder as well," said Gus Heningberg of the Minority Braintrust, which worked with Lipman in fighting for laws to open doors for minority and women's businesses. "Before her, there was no training ground, or clearinghouse for minority entrepreneurs on (dealing with) purchasing or other key issues for



State Senator Wynona Lipman

small business.

Lipman, one of City News' 100 Most Influential of New Jersey in 1996, taught business and government at Essex County college, including 20 years of weekend seminars for minority and women entrepreneurs.

"She was soft-spoken and kind of always had a smile on her face," said Carolyn Wallace, director of the anti-poverty International Youth Organization in Newark, who added Lipman was IYO's main supporter in getting appropriations for activities unfunded by government programs.

"But on issues she really cared about, she had her facts and figures and persuasive powers and she got the job done," Wallace said. Last year, she helped IYO win \$25,000 in discretionary funding from the Legislature. Two youth supporter awards from IYO were among the many honors she received, including Senator of the Year.

The wake will be held today, Wednesday, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Whigham Funeral Home, 580 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd. (High Street), Newark. The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 13 at the adjacent St. James AME Church, 588 High St.

New challenge for NJ cities

Poverty and stagnation hamper the best of times

WASHINGTON — As America enjoys a strong economy, too many cities—including five in New Jersey—still grapple with high unemployment combined with "ghetto" poverty or lost population in even the smallest cities, a new federal report states.

The Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) report, "Now Is The Time: Places Left Behind" In the New Economy," found that nine cities in Camden, Jersey City, Newark and Trenton unemployment remains stubbornly above most central cities as it continues falling virtually everywhere across the country.

Despite impressive strides in "doubly burdened" cities—those with unemployed by pockets of intense, "ghetto" poverty or population loss, or both—remain in the slow lane, the study found.

In these cities, despite significant drops in unemployment during the period studied, poverty rates increased by 9.7 percent, 7.6 percent, 2.7 percent and 4.2 percent and 2.8 percent respectively. Except for Jersey City, with a 0.2 percent population gain, all five cities shrank in population from 1990 to 1996.

The report finds that while cities are healthier than they have been in a decade, significant challenges remain left behind. It concludes that "America's economy offers the best opportunity in a generation" to help these communities now because of how low unemployment, strong business growth, an aggressive urban agenda and a balanced federal budget.

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The soldiers stood so silently with their hands behind their backs while a brief signing ceremony formally marking the transfer was held in a conference room in the Yugoslav army press center in Belgrade.

After signing two protocols with a Yugoslav army officer, including one to be released as a prisoner of war, Capt. Supt. Sgt. Andrej Ramire, Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Stone and Spc. Steven M. Gonzales to take their hands from behind their backs, saying they were no longer prisoners.

"I say to our young men who have been set free, we congratulate you for your honor and for your dignity and for your valor. You mean so much to us and to your parents," Jackson said.

Jackson wiped away tears as Ramire, also crying, spoke to his family on a cellular tele-



Newark residents are enjoying a resurgence of pride and a more livable city these days. But a new HUD report finds Newark, Camden, Trenton, and many other cities still need help toward recovery.

of central cities. By HUD standards, 50 percent or more above the national rate is unacceptable high.

Even with low unemployment overall, there are pockets of high joblessness. While unemployment has fallen over the past six years even in the cities with the highest rates, the decline has not kept pace with "the lowest peacetime unemployment in over 40 years" that the nation enjoys.

One in six has acceptably high unemployment

High unemployment affects 17 percent

see NJ CITIES/pg A6

Patti sizzles in the kitchen

By Lucy Sanchez
Staff Writer

ORANGE — Hundreds of excited fans outside Tunde Dada's House of Africa awaited sultry diva Patti LaBelle and as she stepped from a limousine with her million-dollar smile, cheered and showered her with Mothers Day gifts.

They swarmed the Philadelphia native, who had just released "LaBelle's Culinary Recipe Book Sing About It." With specialties such as Geechee Geechee Ya Ya Gumbo, Say-My-Smothered Chicken and Gravy Make-You-Wanna-Holler Maryland Crab Cakes and Don't Block The Blessing Dressing, LaBelle is about to win over thousands of fans.

"While reminiscing for this book, I realized why LaBelle has always been such a labor of love for me," she said. "Because it's as much about friendship and fellowship as it is about food. Because, behind the whole process—the shopping, the planning, the preparing, the serving—cooking is really about love. Cooking is a way to show it, share it, sell it. Cooking is as much as much about nourishment for the soul as it is for the stomach."

Patiently waiting near the end of the line to have the legendary singer autograph her copy of the soufflé cookbook, 23-year-old Robin Williams of South Orange vowed to cook every single recipe. Williams met LaBelle about five years ago, has claimed songs such as "You Are My Sunshine," "Over The Rainbow" and "New Attitude." "I love her spirit. Her singing and her voice are unique," stated Williams.

"She really keeps R&B where it's supposed to be."

South Orange resident Franchise Hunt was so excited that she jumped up and down. Hunt grew up eating LaBelle's tunes in the '60s. "The 19-year-old said she's not only LaBelle's fan but also for her companion. "She sings really good and she really cares



The diva signs copies of her book

about people," stated Hunt.

Amid the screaming fans and the long lines was new Tunde Dada employee Tishawn Farrar. After being employed for only three weeks, he said he was "brought into the fold" with his bubbly and energetic countenance, which he described as "wrestlemania." He said Mr. Dada bought thousands of books and expected they would be sold by the end of the day.

Hitting the top of the New York Times Best Seller List, "LaBelle's Cuisine" has garnered fans everywhere. After winning eleven Grammys, including a 1997 NAACP Image Award, two American Music Awards and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, LaBelle expanded her thriving career to include success in writing as well as cooking.

Not only did she author the best-selling memoir "Don't Break the Blessing," but LaBelle has made a name for herself with her vocal sensibilities and her compassion. She is a spokesperson for the National Minority AIDS Council's "Live Long, Sugar" campaign, the National Cancer Institute, and the American Diabetes Association. LaBelle makes people feel like she's known them for years and gives a down-to-earth feeling of warmth people take home with them.

Jesse Jackson secures freedom for POWs

By George Jahn

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Yugoslav authorities freed 10 American captives on Sunday. With tears and beaming smiles, the soldiers marked the end of their 32 days in captivity with calls home saying "I am free."

The soldiers stood so silently with their hands behind their backs while a brief signing ceremony formally marking the transfer was held in a conference room in the Yugoslav army press center in Belgrade.

After signing two protocols with a Yugoslav army officer, including one to be released as a prisoner of war, Capt. Supt. Sgt. Andrej Ramire, Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Stone and Spc. Steven M. Gonzales to take their hands from behind their backs, saying they were no longer prisoners.

"I say to our young men who have been set free, we congratulate you for your honor and for your dignity and for your valor. You mean so much to us and to your parents," Jackson said.

Jackson wiped away tears as Ramire, also crying, spoke to his family on a cellular tele-

phone. Stone and Gonzales, wearing broad smiles, also spoke to their parents.

"All three of them said almost to the letter in tails to their mothers, 'I am free, I am free,'" Jackson said. "I love you very much. I hope to see you soon. That was the message."

Along with Jackson and his interfaith delegation, the three then left Yugoslavia by bus, crossing into neighboring Croatia at 10:45 a.m. (4:45 a.m. EDT).

A U.S. military spokeswoman said the three would be flown from there to Landstuhl Hospital in Ramstein, Germany.

Stone, Gonzalez and Ramire, still showing the marks where they suffered when they were captured March 31, each thanked Yugoslav authorities.

"I'd just like to express my gratitude and thanks to the Yugoslav government for showing compassion," Stone said. "Our treatment was very humane."

Jackson said President Clinton had called him to congratulate him on the soldiers' release. The civil rights leader said he would meet with Clinton as early as Monday to deliver a letter from Yugoslav President Slobodan

Milosevic proposing a face-to-face meeting to end the five-week NATO air campaign and resolve the crisis over Kosovo.

Jackson had urged NATO on Saturday to expedite Milosevic's gesture of releasing the soldiers by calling a pause in its bombing campaign.

Jackson had met with the three soldiers Friday in Belgrade, and the three told him of being held in isolation. The Friday meeting with Jackson was the first time the three had seen each other since their capture.

Stone, 25, was from Memphis, Tenn.; Gonzalez, 22, from Huntsville, Texas; and Ramire, 20, from Los Angeles.

The soldiers were seized while conducting a routine patrol along the Yugoslav-Macedonian border in support of a NATO force deployed in Macedonia.

Jackson had met with the three soldiers in Baldwin Park, Calif., were cautious. His grandmother, Mary Pantano, choked back tears, saying "I just hope it's true."

In Huntsville, Texas, Gonzales' parents celebrated the news. "We can't wait to hold him," his mother, Rosie Gonzales, told reporters.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY, MAY 12

ELIZABETH — March and demonstration in Solidarity with Coalition for Unity and Progress starting at 5 p.m. at the Elizabeth City Hall, 50 Winfield Street, ending at One Police Plaza. Contact Salam Ismail at (908)282-1810.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Historical Society will hold a discussion on America's fascination with cars and history of cars beginning at 5:30 p.m. (973) 596-8500.

MORRISTOWN — The Women's Association of Morristown Memorial Hospital will hold a lecture series on about 100 ways to decorate your home at the Octagon Building. Call (973) 425-0424 for time.

SATURDAY, MAY 15

NEW YORK — The City Museum of New York will hold a discussion on the impact of Paul Robeson beginning at 2 p.m. (212) 534-1672.

NEWARK — National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., presents a summer of "Empowerment Through Education in the New Millennium," beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Essex County Campus on 303 University Ave., at the Birch Auditorium. (908)241-3847.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Recreation Division will be taking registrations for 1999 Summer Camp beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Park-Madison gazebo. (908)733-3607.

SUNDAY, MAY 16

SOMERSET — Single Faces Inc. presents a singles function at McAteers Restaurant beginning at 8 p.m. (732) 469-2522.

WAYNE — William Paterson University will hold a sale on authentic plates at the campus student center beginning at 10 a.m. (973) 732-2366.

NORTH BRUNSWICK — New Jersey's first running orthopedic and podiatric clinic to join PBA Blood Champs Parker Bohn, III at a Bow-A-Thon to benefit the National Kidney Foundation at 12:00 p.m. at Carolier Lanes, 790 US Route 1.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

NEWARK — The People's Organization for Progress will host a birthday celebration and commemoration of the life of Malcolm X with a march starting at Broad & Market Sts. at 4:00 p.m. Contact (973)443-7711.

FRIDAY, MAY 21

PLAINFIELD — Sisters of Soul (SOS)

presents a "Back to the 70's" dance party at the Mohawk Lounge beginning at 8 p.m. (908) 753-2724.

MONDAY, MAY 24

SOMERSET — Somerset Culinary Invitational presents its annual competition at the Doubletree Hotel beginning at 6:00 p.m. The proceeds will benefit non-profit agencies (908)725-1552.

THURSDAY, MAY 27

NEWARK — The New Jersey Institute for School Innovation presents "1,000 Friends of Public Education" Luncheon honoring Robert Kelly of the New York City Partnership at The Newark Club. Call (973) 521-0631 for time.

SATURDAY, MAY 29

BRADLEY — The Bradley Memorial Day Committee presents the annual Memorial Day Parade beginning at 10 a.m. (732) 775-2008.

SUNDAY, MAY 30

HOLMDEL — PNC Bank Arts Center presents Lenny Kravitz beginning at 8 p.m. (732) 335-0400.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

HOLMDEL — PNC Bank Arts Center presents rock legends Lynyrd Skynyrd beginning at 8 p.m. (732) 335-0400.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

MONTCLAIR — Mid American Productions presents the Elysium Chamber Music Series of Upper Montclair featuring Elysium String Quartet at St. Matthew's Church of Upper Montclair beginning at 4 p.m. (212) 239-0200.

MONDAY, JUNE 7

NEWARK — The Court date for Max Antonio, Victim of police torture by Newark police officers, who was found in a wheelchair, blind in one eye, deaf in one ear, even after 17 surgeries at the Essex County courthouse. Contact (732)255-8044.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

PATERSON — Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. presents a scholarship dinner and dance at Wayne Menor beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 777-4442.

TINTON FALLS — The Monmouth Urban League will host its Sixth Annual Equal Opportunity Awards Dinner Dance at Gibbs Hall Officer's Club beginning at 6 p.m. (732) 345-7066.

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Redeveloping West Africa



Atlantic City Mayor James Whelan (left to right), with Honorable Dr. Peter Coleman, Minister of Health & Social Welfare for Liberia, Barbara L. Hudgings, Deputy Minister Saye, and Dr. John Regis at a recent reception to announce the redevelopment of the medical infrastructure in Liberia destroyed in a recent civil war.

The role of the scholar activist



Dr. James Turner (right), founder of Cornell University's Africana's Studies and Research Center, a leader in his field and the model for black studies programs, delivered the fourth annual "W.E.B DuBois Lecture," at New Jersey City University. Dr. Turner discussed his address, "The Role of the Scholar Activist," with (from left to right): Jessie Bonner of Jersey City, NJCU freshman Carlos Parra of Paterson and Blanca Martinez of Jersey City; Dr. Antoinette Ellis Williams and Samuel McGhee, NJCU ass't. dean of students.

The week of the young child



Giant Steps Learning Center of Newark celebrates the Week of the Young Child on April 23 as the Newark Municipal Council and Day Care Committees discussed America's future. Councilwoman Bessie Walker spearheaded the day's events.

Caldwell students encourage environmental consciousness



Caldwell College botany and biology students gathered on campus last week to encourage environmental consciousness during Earth Awareness Week April 18-24. This year's theme, Help Ensure a Living Plant Earth, included tree planting and analyzing local water samples. Above students prepare the ground for the planting of a holly bush.

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Nation Briefs

RALLY IN PUERTO RICO SEEKS JUSTICE FOR MUMIA ABU JAMAL

SAN JUAN (IPS) — Armed with 100 songs and traditional plena music, more than 100 human rights activists demonstrated on April 24 in front of the state prison in San Juan, known as Oso Negro, demanding the worldwide abolition of the death penalty, the release of Puerto Rico's 16 political prisoners and freedom for American death row prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal.

"The injustice committed against Mumia Abu Jamal in the United States has everything to do with the repression and police brutality here in Puerto Rico against marginalized groups, like prostitutes and Dominican immigrants," said Ricardo Santos, University of Puerto Rico (UPR) student and Socialist Front member.

Abu Jamal, an African-American award-winning journalist, was jailed and sentenced to death for allegedly killing a police officer in Philadelphia, Pa. His supporters claim he is innocent and that he was framed as a punishment for his journalistic exposures of police brutality and corruption.

April 24 was chosen by Abu Jamal's supporters worldwide as the International Day of Action for Mumia Abu Jamal and Against the Death Penalty Activities similar to the one in Puerto Rico took place in several cities in the United States and in other parts of the world.

HOMELESS MAN WITH MENTAL ILLNESS CHARGE WITH PUSHING MAN ON TRACKS

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge ordered psychiatric tests for a homeless man who allegedly pushed another man in front of a subway train, severing his legs.

Judge Martin Murphy of Manhattan Criminal Court ordered the examination to determine whether Julio Perez, 43, is fit to stand trial on attempted murder and assault charges for shoving Edgar Rivero, 46, onto subway tracks.

Rivero, of the Bronx, was pushed onto the uptown tracks around 5:45 p.m. Wednesday just as a No. 6 train entered the busy station at East 51st Street and Lexington Avenue.

He screamed, "Oh, my God!" and tumbled into the path of the train, witnesses said. As he scrambled to lift himself to safety, two cars of the train passed over him.

Surgeons were unable to reattach Rivero's legs. Believe Hospital spokeswoman Eleanor Hyman said Rivero's condition, listed as critical but stable after surgery, had improved slightly.

DEADLY BOMB CAMPAIGN TARGETS LONDON'S MINORITY COMMUNITIES

LONDON (AP) — Gathering places for the capital's minorities are the focus of a murderous neo-Nazi campaign that has claimed three lives and injured more than 115 people in two weeks.

"Although the attacks have so far targeted on minorities, these are attacks on the people of the community, not all of us," commissioner Sir Paul Condon said, disclosing that police were questioning one man in the bombings.

A neo-Nazi, neo-Nazi group called White Wolves claimed responsibility for Friday's explosion in the Admiral Duncan. All the White Wolves' high command providers were identical stenciled death threats sent to members of the Jewish, black and Asian communities in recent weeks, saying in part:

"Notice is hereby given that all non-whites (defined by blood, not religion) must permanently leave the British Isles before the year is out. Jews and non-whites who remain after 1999 will be exterminated."

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Mother elated about her son meeting with the Rev. Jesse Jackson

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Vivian Ramirez isn't wearing sunglasses to hide her tears anymore.

She smiled broadly Friday as told reporters about watching a videotape of her son, captured Staff Sgt. Andrew Ramirez, walking his arm around the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

"I felt very emotional . . . God, if I could've gone in there, I could've gone in there and just hugged him," the mother told reporters at a news conference after viewing the tape of Jackson's visit with the three captured U.S. soldiers.

Ramirez, 34, Christopher J. Stone,

of Smiths Creek, Mich., and Steven M. Gonzales, 21, of Hinsdale, Texas, were captured while patrolling the Yugoslavia-Macedonia border on March 31, seven days after NATO launched its bombing campaign in Yugoslavia.

The three were in good health and received enough food and regular exercise but had not been allowed to meet with any Westerners until a visit by international Red Cross officials this week.

The mother said she didn't know if Jackson's efforts would help speed the

release of her son.

"Hopefully, he will. Hopefully, I pray he will. But I can't really say," she said.

Ramirez appeared healthier, albeit a little thin, compared with the first video tape of him taken in April 1999, just after his capture when all three soldiers had battered faces, his brother said.

A previous letter from her son and the videotape have helped her cope with the ordeal, she said.

"It was worse before when I didn't hear anything, just the pictures they were showing from early times. That

Survivors who escaped school massacre bear burden of life

By Arlene Levinson

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — The first night after the fed-up High School with his life and not an outward scratch, 16-year-old Grant Taylor dreamed he was a hero, wounded yet able to pull other students to safety.

Although he was right, he dreamed he was wounded and dying.

Although happy he escaped, never even setting eyes on a gun, the tall, rangy sophomore said painless was later than he felt angry, and guilty. "I kind of wish I was there in the other cities in the United States," he said. "They call it survivor guilt."

Kids who run away from the gunman or hid under tables or in closets. Kids who saw classmates die or shot and bleeding. Teachers unable to help their students in their care. frantic parents frantic and afraid to stand behind police lines for too many hours as children remained trapped in the school.

Long after the victims are buried and the scars faded, remorse can torment those who live through catastrophe.

Grief has followed grief since April 20, when Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold killed 12 fellow students, a teacher and themselves.

"I feel like it's not fair," said Megan Frye, 14, a Columbine freshman.

Her mother, Debra Frye, stood by her side as the pair walked arm-in-arm visiting the makeshift shrine of flowers and messages spread over Clement Park, next to the tightly guarded school-turned-crime scene.

With her daughter shaken and momentarily withdrawn, Debra Frye took off the week from her job as a landscape architect.

Megan hid her tears behind sunglasses, but said she also felt fortunate. "I just feel so lucky to still be here."

The more the survivors witnessed, the greater the sense that they might have done more.

"The guilt usually comes later, when you feel like you have been able to do more or help others or to help your friends," said Jeff Dolgan, chief of psychology at Children's Hospital of Denver. "But what they don't understand is these kinds of situations take their autonomy away. They're immobilized."

They'll need support and caring

listeners, he said. They may experience flashbacks, terrifying dreams and odd reactions to unrelated events, such as loud noise or setting foot in a new location. They may become clingy and dependent.

Parents, too, may suffer guilt, Dolgan said. "A parent might have been restrained from doing something. Within 10 minutes, the parents might have given them the school bus ticket or the bag or the job," he said.

"Greg Martinez was grateful that his 16-year-old, Laura, escaped unharmed from Columbine where she was with him, but his gratitude is tinged with regret."

"We feel for the other parents like anybody would," Martinez said. "You almost feel guilty, about you, knowing your kid got out. Because we have a lot of friends in the community. She played soccer with a lot of these girls. As a matter of fact we attended their games this week, and it has been hard for us."

Worried parents have sought counseling help for youngsters who escaped, said Tom Olbrich, a social worker in charge of emergency services at The Children's Center for Mental Health in Arvada, a private, nonprofit agency acting as a clearinghouse for those seeking counseling as a result of the killings.

One woman reported that her daughter was feeling a lot of guilt, "wondering why she should live when other people died."

Another girl, who was splattered with blood, replays the scene in her mind like a continuous mental video. She felt the hot, sticky blood "and kept feeling like she can't get it off her."

"That's a normal kind of response," Olbrich said, "an abnormal kind of situation."

His own 15-year-old son, Ryan, reported nightmares of snipers at school even though he never went to Columbine.

Olbrich said those who feel guilty for making it out alive need to be reassured that they can celebrate their survival.

"To be under a blanket means you did a lot to save your own life," he said. "Or when they get outside, did they say 'words'?" Do they hug somebody? We have to help them understand. They were brave to go to the vigil, brave to go to the funeral."

African family must unite, 'Panafest' chairman implores

By Brandt Williams

What colonialism, imperialism and slavery have produced, among other things, are individuals who have what psychologists call "schizophrenic personalities," said Mohammed Ben Abdallah, president of the Panafest Foundation and former Minister of Culture for Ghana.

Abdallah, who appeared at a recent Insight/KMOM Public Policy Forum in Minneapolis asked to offer a prediction of the state of African people in the year 2000.

And he predicted that the current condition of Africans on the continent, and in the Diaspora, may sound bleak to some. Abdallah said colonialism, imperialism and slavery can also be responsible for the growth and progress of Africa.

"Looking into the future — out of bondage, out of the jaws of slavery, colonialism and imperialism we have, in the Diaspora, a very big population of powerful people," said Abdallah. "Individuals who have gone through the furnace of history have been tempered by fire who are strong, who are not afraid to stand up for their people physically, emotionally, and spiritually on this planet — (are) poised at the threshold of the third millennium."

Abdallah was in the Cities United as a member of a Citizens' delegation traveling to several cities in the United States to promote Panafest '99. Panafest, the Pan African Historical Theater Festival, is held every few years in Cape Coast and Elmina, Ghana. The theme for this year's celebration is "Uniting the African Family: The

Agenda for a New Millennium."

According to Abdallah, there are two which can be expected in the year 2000. The first, he said, is the end of the century on earth — and that is the further exploitation and destabilization of the continent. Not only will the further degradation of Africa come through the efforts of Europeans and Americans, financial and otherwise, said Abdallah, but it will happen because African Americans will continue to buy into the Western individualistic philosophy which condones the exploitation of natural resources.

He continued on this road, said Abdallah, when in 2050, Africans everywhere will be worse off than they are now.

The other route, said Abdallah, will involve the collaboration between the continent and the Diaspora. As an example, he referred to the formation of a country which didn't exist before 1948. As a result of the lobbying efforts and cooperation between Jewish Americans and Jews in Israel, the country has become a power to reckon with, said Abdallah.

(Benjamin) Netanyahu is one of the most arrogant individuals I have ever seen, and he irritates the hell out of people in Washington, DC but they can do anything about it," said Abdallah. "The Democrats and Republicans will make sure that Israel gets what it wants, because of the power of the Jewish Diaspora."

Brandt Williams is an editor for Minnesota's Insight News

was unbearable," she said. "Hopefully, he will. Hopefully, I pray he will. But I can't really say," she said.

Ramirez appeared healthier, albeit a little thin, compared with the first video tape of him taken in April 1999, just after his capture when all three soldiers had battered faces, his brother said.

A previous letter from her son and the videotape have helped her cope with the ordeal, she said.

"It just told him that I loved him very much. I told him to take care, not to worry, that we were doing all we could to bring him back home," she said.

Doing business with Africa



Ghana President Jerry Rawlings (right) and Carl Ware, senior vice president of The Coca-Cola Company, recently some time together at the Corporate Council on Africa's gala dinner held in Houston. The company is the sponsor of the state dinner at the upcoming Fifth African-American Summit to be held in Ghana's capital city of Accra in May.

Embattled black police Chief Demery resigns

BEAVER FALLS, Pa. (AP) — A former police chief whose tenure included standoffs with federal agents, a complaint about racial discrimination and charges of using city property for personal gain has resigned.

Rodney Demery, 33, resigned from the Beaver Falls police force on Friday in a move that comes just days after the county's two counts of racial discrimination credit card for personal purchases. He will receive \$10,000 in severance pay and will drop a racial discrimination complaint filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Pittsburgh.

Demery joined the Beaver Falls police force in 1994, and became the city's first black police chief last year.

He filed a complaint with the EEOC in 1997, alleging harassment and discrimination. He settled that lawsuit for \$50,000 when he became chief, but filed a new complaint in January when he said the harassment didn't stop.

He was charged April 7 with using a city credit card to buy personal property. A facets of the agreement was Mayor Tom Monach's refusal to testify.

Monach had told investigators that she didn't know Demery had a city credit card. But witnesses told police that she authorized the card for him.

City Councilwoman Diane Ward said she learned the council learned that witnesses would sue the mayor, the council decided "it was in the best interest of the city to accept Demery's severance offer."

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

JAMES DELETTREAU — The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce hosts a chamber breakfast with speaker James Delettreau at the Forstall Country Club beginning at 8 a.m. (609) 788-7688.

THURSDAY, MAY 13

MIDDLETOWN — The New Jersey Technology Council offers course in implementing a strategic marketing plan at the law offices of Giordano, Halleran, Fass, and Ciesla beginning at 4 p.m. (609) 452-1010.

RARITAN — The Middlesex Chapter of the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners presents a business and industry expo at the New Jersey Convention at the Raritan Center beginning at 8 a.m. (732) 651-1495.

EDISON — Middlesex County College hosts its 14th Annual Job Opportunity Fair at the school's Physical Education Center beginning at 8 a.m. (732) 908-2566.

MONDAY, MAY 17

NEWARK — The Regional Business Partnership holds its 11th Annual Awards Breakfast at the Newark Club beginning at 8 a.m. (973) 522-0099.

PRINCETON — The New Jersey Fund for Economic Development hosts a seminar on creating value through technology spinoffs at Sarnoff Corporation beginning at 4 p.m. (609) 452-1010.

TUESDAY, MAY 18

NEWARK — The Regional Business Partnership and NJ Transit holds a seminar on how to do business and conduct entitled "Improving Employees' Bottom Line While Improving Employees' Morale" at the New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center (NUTRA) office located at One Newark Center beginning at 8:30 a.m. (973) 491-7108.

EDISON — The New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA) will host its Sixth Annual Business & Financial Seminar at the New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center beginning at 8 a.m. (973) 226-4494.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

EAST ORANGE — The Black United Fund will host a seminar on the use of money called "The Rules of Wealth." Call (973) 676-5283 for information and time.

SUNDAY, MAY 23

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Small Business Administration hosts "Small Business Week," a week full of seminars and workshops for small businesses at the Renaissance Washington Hotel. Call (202) 205-6433 for more information.

Bell Atlantic Chairman Ivan Seidenberg receives Mickey Leland Award for "Excellence in Diversity"

WASHINGTON — The Mickey Leland Award for "Excellence in Diversity" was given to Ivan Seidenberg, Bell Atlantic chairman and chief executive officer, by the National Association of Black Telecommunications Professionals (NABTP). The award was presented at a ceremony held during the NABTP Eighth Annual Convention in Washington, D.C.

In words of deeds, Ivan Seidenberg has demonstrated Bell Atlantic's corporate and his personal commitment to the African-American community and the other minority groups that define the cities and towns served by Bell Atlantic," said Monica Huddleston, president of the NABTP.

During the awards ceremony

Huddleston cited a number of Bell Atlantic commitments and actions that promote diversity, including:

Bell Atlantic's pledge last year to the U.S. Small Business Administration to stop purchasing and sub-contracting from minority-run businesses to the tune of \$1 billion by the year 2000.

Bell Atlantic's pledge in January to have minimum investment firms make \$2 billion in Bell Atlantic pension fund assets.

Seidenberg's direction of more than 80 percent of the Bell Atlantic Foundation's \$33 million annual budget to assist schools, libraries and other community-based organizations that benefit minorities.

Seidenberg's strong assurance to Bell Atlantic employees that minorities will be well represented throughout the ranks of the company when Bell Atlantic and GTE merge. Huddleston noted that approximately one-quarter of Bell Atlantic employees is composed of minorities, with many serving as directors and some in even higher positions.

The NABTP's Excellence in Diversity award is named after the late Rep. **MICKEY LELAND**, D-Tex. (D-Tex.), who was a strong supporter of diversity in telecommunications. Leland believed that information highways, like the Freedom Riders of the

1960s, would help transform Black America and usher in equality and economic empowerment.

Leland also was one of the first advocates to found the NABTP, a minority organization. The National Association of Black Telecommunications Professionals is comprised of a powerful network of professionals with diverse backgrounds in the telecommunications industry, including small business owners and executives.

The Association seeks to fulfill Leland's belief in telecommunications by educating and informing its members, the industry and the public on matters pertaining to the use of telecommunications to enhance career development and spur economic growth.

Bell Atlantic is at the forefront of the new communications and information industry.

With more than 42 million telephone accounts and 8.6 million wireless customers worldwide, Bell Atlantic companies are premier providers of advanced wireline voice and data services, market leaders in wireless services, and the world's largest manufacturer of directory assistance.

Bell Atlantic companies are also among the world's largest investors in high-growth global communications markets, with operations and investments in 23 countries.

The power of money

Do you wonder where your paycheck went? Why can't you seem to save? Do you want to eliminate debt or begin saving?

On Wednesday, May 19, 1999, 10 a.m. — 2 p.m., The Black United Fund of N.J. will host the RULES OF WEALTH Seminar about The Power of Money at the BURLINGTON COUNTY EXPO CENTER, 200 South Broad Street, East Orange, N.J., from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. The RULES OF WEALTH seminar, is a two (2) day, intensive, educational seminar and workshop designed to teach productive financial concepts. The event will be hosted by Dr. Yvor Alleyne, a well-known author and lecturer, Michael D. Richardson.

Richmond halls from the Chicago area is the author of three books: "This Is Your Life," "How To Retire In Seven Years," "Judgment Proof And How To Win At The Game Of God's Money In Caesar Pockr's Inc."

Along with the lecture circuit, Richmond is the Executive Director of the National Council of Certified Estate Planners, Founder of The Affiliate Network and Editor and Trainer of Certified Estate Planner curriculum.

Alayne, a Certified Estate Planner and Financial Advisor with Guardian Investor Services Corporation, is a current member of the National Council of Certified Estate Planners. He specializes in Business and Personal Financial Services with a focus on Asset Protection and Wealth Creation.

Call (973) 676-5283 (Dial extension #105) voice-mail line after hours for reservations and additional information.

Enrollment is limited. Free parking on premises is available.

You may soon be faced with decisions regarding your distribution from your employer's 401(k) plan. What factors are available to you can make the decision a difficult one. Since this distribution may involve the largest single sum of money you have ever had to manage, it is crucial that you have all the facts before taking any action.

This class is offered free to the public to enhance the knowledge and information needed to invest wisely, to increase savings and to reduce personal debt.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County, located at 300 North Avenue East, in Westfield, will offer "Variable Annuities: Making Sense Out of Your Retirement Plan Distribution" on Monday, May 24, 1999 from 7:00 P.M. until 8:30 P.M. This will provide a unique opportunity to receive up-to-date information regarding the alternatives of rolling your distribution over to an IRA versus paying taxes on it now. Join us for an informative talk on this timely subject.

REGISTER for this FREE sem-

inar by calling 908-654-9854.

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Teachers get high marks on computer knowledge, though classes ill-equipped

TRENTON — A new university survey reveals that New Jersey teachers have made great strides in learning to use computers and the Internet. But the technology is not available in many classrooms in the state and their use is not being emphasized in teaching. The study, conducted with Garden State high school teachers, is the third in a series attempting to gauge how well schools are preparing students to enter the work world.

Teachers keeping up on technology

The survey, sponsored by Rutgers Business School, the state Chamber of Commerce and Arthur Andersen, concluded teachers are doing an excellent job keeping pace with emerging technologies. Eighty-six percent of respondents owned a personal computer, 91 percent used e-mail and find information on the Internet and 94 percent said use a word processor.

"While the Internet is still relatively new and that personal computing has come into its own in recent years, it is surprising that these numbers are so high," said Howard Tuckman, dean of Rutgers Business School. "It demonstrates the rapid pace at which technology has permeated everyday life."

"This is great news because computers, the Internet and word processing programs are fundamental tools in business," said Chamber President Joann Verplanck. "Teachers need to be well versed in these technologies so that students can be prepared to enter the workforce."

Curriculum and computer equipment remain behind

While teachers are familiar with the latest technologies, the integration of computers into the classroom is not keeping pace. Nearly 65 percent of teachers reported having a computer in their classroom. Nevertheless, the average user only 4.6 computers for the average class of 22 students. Eighty-nine percent had a computer lab available to students and 43 percent had an Internet connection in their classroom. But only 33 percent had all three.

"You could look at these numbers and say New Jersey has made great strides in recent years," continued Verplanck. "But when you consider the business landscape in New Jersey, this is not a flattering picture. A computer is a standard issue for most jobs today and students need more exposure on a regular basis."

While almost half of teachers thought computer skills crucial to job success, only 12 percent stressed this skill in their classroom. Forty six percent of New Jersey teachers did not require students to use any type of word processing, Internet browser, database or spreadsheet software.

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Religion

May 12 — May 18, 1999

RELIGION CALENDAR

FRIDAY, MAY 14

NEW YORK — The Beacon Theater presents the gospel musical "Lord, Why Do I Keep Choosing The Wrong Man?" beginning at 8 p.m. (212) 498-7070

SATURDAY, MAY 15

SOMERSET — First Baptist Community Development Corporation hosts a family fun day picnic and celebrity outing at Buccleuch Park in New Brunswick beginning at 9 a.m. (732) 247-9531

SUNDAY, MAY 16

NEWARK — The African Globa Arts & Entertainment in association with Newark Symphony Hall presents a gospel showcase concert beginning at 6 p.m. (973) 624-1584

PLAINFIELD — Faith Tabernacle Church presents a women's day conference on family and worship beginning at 7:30 p.m. (908) 757-6358

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

PATERSON — New Christian Tabernacle Church Family hosts a mortgage burning program at New Christian Tabernacle Church of God in Christ beginning at 4:30 p.m. (973) 942-8659

PLAINFIELD — The House of Prayer Church of God in Christ holds a "Holy Ghost Conference" in the state of the black church beginning at 8 p.m. (908) 561-8656

McDonald's GospelFest celebrates 15

NEW YORK — This is the 15th Anniversary of McDonald's GospelFest, a spectacular show with such luminaries as Vicki Winans, Timothy Wright, The Thomas Whitfield Company, Bronx Mass Choir, Richard Smallwood & Vision and previous GospelFest winners, Last Appeal. The star-studded Gala will be held at the Madison Square Garden on Saturday, June 26th from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sponsored by the McDonald's Restaurant Owners in the New York, New Jersey, Connecticut tri-state area and presented this year in partnership with Coca-Cola, McDonald's GospelFest is a community-based celebration of gospel music. An open

competition for all nonprofessional choirs and soloists will make up the remainder of the evening's entertainment. Winners will then perform at the Gala at The Theater at Madison Square Garden. And for the first time, this event will be taped and aired on WABC-TV, Channel 7, on Saturday, July 10th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

GospelFest is a wonderful opportunity for choirs or soloists in the tri-state area, who have a message, a sound, and a look that convey the spirit, power and joy of gospel music, to showcase their talents and perform with some of gospel's greats at the Gala in June. For more information please contact Angela E. Spears at

POSITIVELY BLACK

The solutions to our problems are within us

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

"Control in the heart of man is like deep water, but the man (person) of understanding will draw it out." Proverbs 20:5

"The only voice that can sustain a people is the inner cultural wisdom of that people." We've bought and paid down our homes, we've got our cars, let's not try the African-centered substandard and qualify bring a inner our homes, jobs, campuses, prisons, pulpit, politics and institutions." Haki R. Madhubuti

The Nation of Islam's Elijah Muhammad is aptly referred to Africans in America as the "inner culture" of our names, culture, sense of self and purpose. Any serious student of our history or astute observer of our current situation would conclude that we are lost, devoid of a group identity, goals, direction or functional cohesiveness. We are

lost because those who brought us to this place were not sincere, attempted to break their spirits, dehumanize them and transform and acustomize them to a life of brutal and forced servitude.

Africans were taught to hate everything about themselves, to view their homeland with contempt, to feel inferior and to their own medium, hair, features — and their very essence. They were told they were ugly, that Africans had no history, had contributed nothing to human progress and were at the bottom of the evolutionary ladder.

It lasted through three generations.

It lasted through chattel slavery, was modified and intensified into a racial cast system following Reconstruction, and was amended again into an insidious policy to foster the dependency and mental lethargy we experience now. The solution is we are lost.

For the last few times, our current leaders lack vision of how best to ameliorate our situation. There are no

Richard Allens, Paul Cuffes, Frederick Douglasses, "Pop" Singletons, Booker T. Washingtons, Marcus Garveys, Elijah Muhammads or Charles Houston to furnish new ideas and actions to improve our lot.

Does this mean we'll remain lost? Certainly not. But, it does mean we have to be more diligent in our efforts to define our situation, formulate effective strategies and create institutions that will



Local church will host a conference on women

PLAINFIELD — The SisterCare Women's Ministry of Faith Tabernacle presents its second annual conference during its Women's Day Conference on May 14, 15, 16. Our theme this year is, "Sisters, Provoking One Another Unto Love And To Good Works."

We believe that God is calling not just the members of FTC but the church body to a place of Love and Good Works knowing full preparation for the great things He wants to do through us.

"And let us consider one another

er to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembly of saints in any thing; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25

We decree, that as a result of what God will do during this Women's Day Conference, we will move the church body into Love and to Good Works knowing full well that our Lord and Savior is soon to return.

Please join with us as we magnify and glorify God, as He prepares us to perform His word.

John P. Kee and The New Life Community Choir are coming to Six Flags Great Adventure

NEW BRUNSWICK — Soul Brothers Productions Company, Inc. is proud to venture into new and exciting venues and opportunities to spread the message of God's love throughout the greater New Jersey area. Soul has been offered as for the month of June; and we are excited and pleased to share with you.

On Saturday, June 12, 1999, Soul Brothers Production Company, in association with Six Flags Great Adventure will be performing. Vocalists include Junious Stanton, John P. Kee and his New Life Community Choir, for two shows only — at 4 and 8 P.M. Tickets can be purchased in advance for groups of 10 or more at \$25 per person, through Soul Brothers Production Company on or before June 1, 1999.

John P. Kee has over 12 albums and countless awards, he well deserves the title as the prince gospel because he literally burst on the gospel scene in the early 1970's and was the catalyst that changed the spiritual style and presentation of gospel music. John P. Kee has reignited the celebration, high-energy components in gospel music and perhaps the most appealing feature is his ability to weave in personal family stories that strikes a chord again and again with his loyal fan base.

Junious Stanton has won several

awards for his work, 1996 Grammy Award Nomination for Best Gospel Album by a Choir/Chorus Stellar Award for Song of the Year for "Show Up".

His most recent album, "God's Recorded Song of the Year" from the Colorado release, VIP-Victor in Frasie Convention is one of John P. Kee's favorite projects to host every year. The VIP Conventions attracts thousands of amateur singers, choir conductors and vocalists, music workshops and a live recording culminates the week's activities. John's 13 album discography includes 5 releases with the New Life Community Choir, 3 with Victory In Praise (VIP), 2 solo albums, 1 with the Children's Choir, 1 with the children's project and a specialty project entitled "Surrender" featuring the female singers from the New Life Community Choir.

Six Flags Great Adventure added more than 25 new rides and attractions for the 1999 season, including a whole new children's section called Looney Tunes Seaport and Medusa a thrilling floorless Super Coaster!

For more information, directions and tickets, please contact Soul Brothers Productions Company at (908) 272-5674 or 1-(888)-403-9769. Visit our Website at www.soulbrothers.com or e-mail us at gospalmusic@soulbrothers.com

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Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

JERSEY CITY — Jersey City Medical Center offers a support group for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients beginning at 6 p.m. (201) 915-2273.

FRIDAY, MAY 14

NEWARK — The University Medical and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) holds a day long forum on educating health professionals for culturally competent care beginning at 8 a.m. (973) 972-4267.

SATURDAY, MAY 15

NORTH BRUNSWICK — The American Heart Association offers a seminar on brain attack caused by stroke. Call (732) 821-2610 for location and time.

MONDAY, MAY 17

SOMERSET — The Mental Health Association of Somerset County presents the First Annual Fantasy Benefit Fundraiser at the Doubletree Hotel beginning at 7 p.m. (908) 722-8520.

TUESDAY, MAY 18

EDISON — JFK Medical Center offers a course on infant care beginning at 7 p.m. (732) 632-1632.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

JERSEY CITY — Jersey City Medical Center offers a support group for breast cancer survivors beginning at 6 p.m. (201) 915-2273.

THURSDAY, MAY 20

NEWARK — Newark Beth Israel Hospital holds "Senior Day," which emphasizes situations affecting senior as part of its commemoration of Older Americans Month beginning at 10 a.m. (973) 925-7175.

GARWOOD — The Emmanuel Cancer Foundation will hold a fund-raising event at Crossroads Restaurant beginning at 6:30 p.m. (908) 232-5665.

PLAINFIELD — Cedarbrook School presents the Literacy Health Fair inside the school's multi-purpose room beginning at 6:30 a.m. (908) 753-3269.

Torricelli Lauds Passage of Lou Gehrig's Disease Resolution

Senate Passes Legislator's ALS Awareness Month Resolution

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sen. Robert G. Torricelli (D-N.J.) lauded the Senate's passage of his resolution officially designating the month of May as "National ALS Awareness Month."

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a fatal, devastating disease that has no cause or cure. Each year, 5,000 new cases of ALS are diagnosed; over 13 new cases per day — and life expectancy is only two to five years.

Approximately 850 cases of ALS currently live with ALS. An estimated 300,000 Americans alive today will die of ALS and only through raising awareness can we hope to eliminate this disease.

Torricelli's resolution designates the month of May in 1999 and 2000 as "National ALS Awareness Month" in an effort to increase awareness of ALS and highlight a month-long series of ALS-awareness activities including press conferences, movements and educational campaigns nationwide. The legislation, passed by the Senate unanimously today, lays the ground work for legislation Torricelli will introduce next month.

The resolution raises much-needed awareness for ALS," Torricelli said. "Many know ALS as the disease that struck down Lou Gehrig, but few know the tragic effects ALS still has on its victims. Through my congressional efforts, I have made great strides, but only through raising awareness can we hope to eradicate this devastating disease."

The ALS Association applauds Senator Torricelli for his efforts to combat this disease. "We thank Senator Torricelli for his leadership," President of The ALS Association (ALSA) "We look forward to working with him as he continues his quest to help the ALS community."

ALS has taken the lives of a number of prominent figures, including Senator Jacob Javits, actor Michael Zaslow, and of course, baseball legend Lou Gehrig's. The recent diagnosis of baseball Hall of Fame great "Catfish" Hunter has brought the spotlight back on ALS.

HeartBeat

Natural remedies can save your life

NEW YORK — It's only natural. Using natural remedies could save your life, says Dr. James F. Balch, author of "10 Natural Remedies That Can Save Your Life" (Doubleday, \$19.95).

Simple changes such as a regular walk and changing your lighting may

improve your health, says a new book. Balch's first book, "Prescription for Nutritional Healing," established him as an authority on alternative and complementary medicine. In his new book, he shows readers how to protect their own health with such natural immune-boosters as

getting enough natural light and oxygen.

Some natural remedies Balch discusses in detail include:

- Barley grass — a rich source of nutrients.

- The Three Gs — garlic, ginseng and gingko

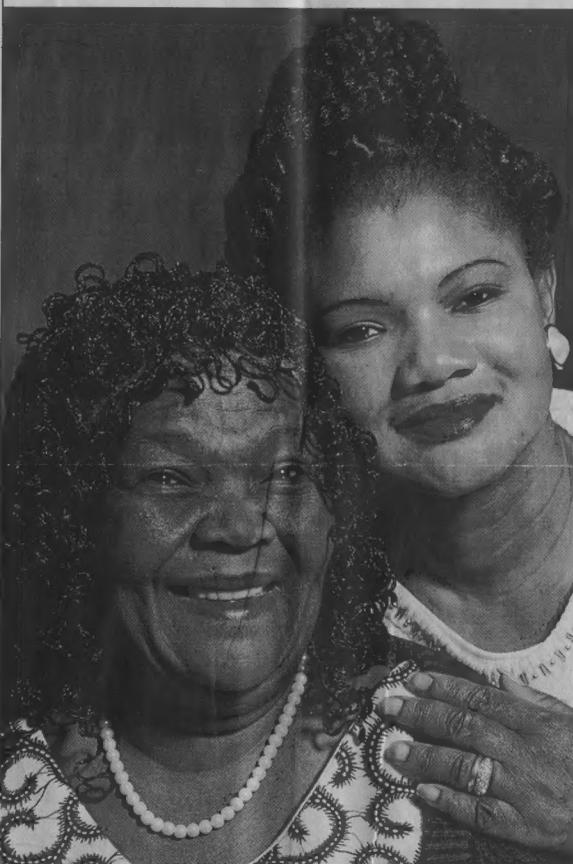
•Chelation Therapy — a natural process in which a combination of nutrients is used to cleanse the body of dangerous substances such as lead and arsenic.

•Natural hormone maintenance with safer, natural alternatives that reduce cancer risk.

"This book is a must read for those looking to better themselves health wise," said Balch. "These ingredients have been around for years and now everyone will notice the benefits."

The book is available wherever books are sold.

"You gave my mother a reason to get up each morning!"



Clementine Mensah has peace of mind at work since her mother started coming to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center's Adult Medical Day Care Center.

"My mother lives with me. And though she got by on her own while I was at work—by sleeping late and passing time watching television—it was hardly living. I worried about her safety and health because she has diabetes, high blood pressure and some other minor ailments."

One day, I visited Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center's Adult Medical Day Care Center. I liked what I saw.

At first my mother was hesitant, but you wouldn't know it now. She's ready at 7 a.m. for the 8:30 a.m. shuttle! Her days are filled with new friends and activities. She can't wait to tell me about her day when I get home. Before, my mom was existing; now she's really living!"

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Call Judy Bartlett today and ask about our free In-Home Adult Medical Day Care Assessment. It's a special visit from one of our certified professionals and will help you decide if adult day care is right for you and your loved one. And when you call, we'll send you a Home Safety Information Check List absolutely free!

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1996 Olympic winner sprinted to victory

Years before the 1996 Olympics, when his only idea of the outside world came from a static-laced radio broadcast, the boy named Haile Gebrselassie decided to run.

The eighth of ten children born to a farmer's wife in a mud hut in Ethiopia, one of the world's poorest countries, he ran six miles to school and back, his books tucked in the crook of one arm. Like all of his siblings, he worked hard in the fields under his father's stern gaze. Haile, however, was driven by his persistence, still chopping firewood or threshing wheat when his older brothers had given up, still grinding oxen to pull the plow farther.

After the chores were done and after his daily three-hour trip to fetch the family's water, he would take off across the fields. Then he would strip barefoot and in the same clothes he wore while working.

He ran up hills under the hot African sun, down gullies and escarpments, following cowpaths and dirt roads. He skirted the big eucalyptus trees that dotted the plains and sprinted through tall grass. If he stumbled with a thorn in his heel, sobbing as his mother in the field pulled it out, it wouldn't deter him.

Haile could do anything to keep running.

Walt Disney Pictures presents "Endurance," a story of courage and triumph from Edward R. Pressman and Terrence Malick's Le Jardin, LLC. Produced in association with Film Four and Helken Media Filmvertrieb. Directed by premier British documentary filmmaker Leslie Woodhead, the film features actual footage of Haile Gebrselassie's legendary 10,000 m race at the

Atlanta Olympics, directed by America's chief sports documentarian, Bud Greenspan, with original music composed by John Powell and orchestrated by Hans Zimmer.

On first glance, Haile Gebrselassie seemed no different than other young Ethiopians who aspire to be great runners much like American boys dream of being basketball stars.

On the day in 1980 that the famous Ethiopian runner and national hero Miruts Yifter ran the fastest mile in the Moscow Olympics, Haile returned from his daily trek to fetch water. The house was deserted, the family in the fields. His father always hid the batteries for the radio, but the resourceful eight-year-old knew where to find them and crouching behind the hut, he listened to the broadcast of Yifter's dramatic victory.

It was well known among family members that one, Haile got an idea in his head, it stuck. He would become totally focused, stubbornly refusing to let anything get in his way. That day, Haile decided to be a runner like Yifter.

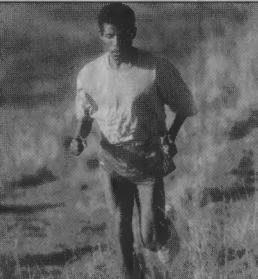
And from then on, there was no stopping him.

The image of winning firmly rooted in his mine Haile began to run more, longer, faster. Finally, at age 17, Haile decided to move to his brother's home in Addis. There he could focus and train with Ethiopia's junior team.

In 1994, Haile broke the 5,000 m world record. In 1996, a string of world records followed. By 1996, at the age of 23, Haile was one of the distance runners at the Atlanta Olympics. Watch the story of Haile as he runs all the way from Ethiopia straight to a theatre near you on May 14.



An Olympic & world hero, Ethiopian distance runner Haile Gebrselassie (top) found the strength and courage to win the gold medal not just for himself, but for his country. Below, Gebrselassie (left) plays himself in Disney's movie "Endurance." He is featured with his real life wife Alem Telahun.



The sounds of Africa echo through New Jersey

Kayaga of Africa are Bristal Myers Squibb's artists-in-residence at the State Theatre

NEW BRUNSWICK — First you hear the drums—the heartbeat of a nation. Then the powerful voices call in refrain, as the actors summon the spirit of Africa through movement and music. This spirit resounds through Central New Jersey May 3-13, when the State Theatre presents Kayaga of Africa, a versatile music, dance, and storytelling ensemble from Uganda. Namira Lwanga, the Artistic Director of Kayaga, visits 13 different sites in New Brunswick and its surrounding communities. Accompanied by her Kayaga troupe, she also presents three performances at the State Theatre.

For the two weeks that Lwanga is in Central Jersey, she is here to present a number of different activities. A professional development workshop for teachers entitled

Although admission to the 7 p.m. performance on May 12 is free, tickets are required, and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets are available at the State Theatre Box Office, located at 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901. For telephone ticket orders or information call the Box Office at (732) 246-7469.

Award winning journalist explores black journey to fatherhood

Recent statistics show that nearly 23 million American children do not live with their biological fathers and almost 40 percent of children of divorced parents have not seen their fathers in the past year.

Recent statistics show that decent father to his five children. His curiosity about whether other men wrestled with the same fears and inadequacies made him seek out some answers.

"I started searching out black fathers who'd had difficult relationships with their own fathers, went to friends, neighbors, and family members, and groups that specialize in helping men to become better fathers," he notes. "The idea was to construct a conversation with my peers on the ways in which we, as black men, succeed or fail at making ourselves fathers, or better yet, dads."

In the many interviews Pitts conducted, the finding that repeatedly impressed him was that where fatherhood is concerned, black men have an eagerness and a need to unburden themselves of unspoken feelings and fears. "I spoke to drug dealers, businessmen, students, and others—asking them about their fathers and sons about their sons," Pitts says. "Men, who in my estimation and theirs, had failed to become good fathers were amazingly candid in discussing why and those who had succeeded in that quest against all reasonable expectations were just as willing to talk about how they did it."

And the latter example is the story that gets missed, Pitts says. "While the perception of black men as failed fathers is real and abiding and must be dealt with, there are black men scarred by their own upbringings, who by force of persistence, will become decent and honorable fathers of themselves," he notes. "Kids look for the guiding hand of a committed man. They deserve this and there's no excuse for the man who brought them into the world not to give it to them. This is a need that must be met now. So you pick yourself up from where you've fallen and you get on with it. You do the job."



Experts also say that fatherless children are more likely to live in poverty, have psychological problems, abuse drugs and alcohol and do poorly in school.

The epidemic of the single-parent household is even more acute in the African American community where only 36 percent of black children live in homes headed by their biological mothers. According to award-winning syndicated columnist and author Leonard Pitts, the most immediate threat facing black children is the simple fact that black fathers are not at home. "In families characterized by strong black women and absent fathers, there is little support to the disastrous notion that maybe fathers aren't really that necessary after all," Pitts says. "But fathers are more than just breadwinners. They provide a dynamic that's irreplaceable."

In his new book "BECOMING DAD: Black Men and the Journey to Fatherhood" (Longstreet, \$22.00), Leonard Pitts explores the issue of black fatherhood through personal anecdotes and dozens of interviews with black men across America. A three-time winner of the National Headliner Award and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1992, Pitts presents men from all walks of life who grapple with past pains inflicted upon them by their own fathers while they struggle to be good fathers to their own children.

Pitts himself grew up in a household with an abusive alcoholic father who was absent a great deal of the time and says a day never passes when he doesn't wonder whether he's a

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